MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

30 SEPTEMBER 1986

Lebanon

Lebanese Forces (LF) Executive Committee Chairman Samir Ja'Ja' warned that in the event of another attack across the contact lines, the LF will seek not only to regain its old positions but also to penetrate across the lines, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. He said the LF leaders had prior knowledge of the "Syrian attempt to penetrate our areas" though they did not know where the attack would be made. Confirming that the attacking force was able to infiltrate East Beirut because of Elie Hubayqah's contacts with some youths in Sodeco, Ja'Ja' announced that "suspect elements" along the contact lines have now been removed. The LF leader also expressed appreciation for Colonel Khali Kan'an, commander of the Lebanese Army's 5th Brigade, who was assassinated by gunmen early on 29 September. Beirut radio said that Kan'an was murdered by relatives of two LF militiamen who were killed in a 28 September clash with the Lebanese Army in the Monte Verde area of East Beirut. An LF statement on the clash had accused the Army of launching a "surprise attack" on an LF roadblock and condemned "irresponsible" officers acting in pursuit of "well-known personal objectives," according to the Voice of Lebanon.

As for the losses resulting from the fighting in East Beirut over the weekend, Beirut radio stated that 100 people were killed, 200 were wounded, and 55 are missing.

West Bank

Commenting on the appointment of Arab mayors for Hebron, Al-Birah, and Ramallah, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told *Ma'ariv* that the decision is part of Israel's policy to reinforce moderate, pro-Jordanian elements and undermine the status of PLO supporters. The appointments were "a Jordanian initiative," he said. Jerusalem radio reported earlier that the appointments are acceptable to Jordan and that the three men recently visited Amman. The Israeli authorities have warned the former Arab mayors of the three towns not to take action against the new mayors, the radio noted.

Jordan's minister for occupied territory viewed the appointments favorably in remarks reported by the Amman papers *Al-Dustur* and *Sawt Al-Sha'b*, stating that Jordan has decided to encourage local leaders to administer West Bank municipalities, which will receive funds from Jordan's West Bank development plan. On the other hand, a PLO official in Amman condemned the move, stressing that Israel should allow municipal elections in the occupied territories, Radio Monte Carlo reported. PNSF and PFLP officials in Damascus likewise denounced the appointments, the radio disclosed.

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak discussed the results of the Alexandria summit in remarks reported by MENA, asserting that "for the first time Israel has agreed to an international conference" and stressing the importance of "continuing along this road."

Mubarak said he does not understand why "some parties are angry" at this achievement, adding that "some countries visited by the Israeli prime minister have attacked us" even though "relations between these countries and Israel continue to make headway."

Maghreb Affairs

Morocco — King Hassan II relieved Mohamed Karim Lamrani of the post of prime minister following Lamrani's request to resign for health reasons, Rabat radio announced. Hassan praised the "devotion and loyalty" displayed by Lamrani, who retains his position as head of the national phosphate company.

Algeria — President Chadli Bendjedid sharply criticized Moroccan-Israeli contacts in a speech broadcast by Algiers radio, stating that the Ifrane meeting in July "disturbed the atmosphere" throughout the Maghreb and allowed Israel's "entry" into the area through contacts, exchanges of delegations, and the presence of IDF officers "in the area of our borders."

Algeria must be vigilant, he said, because Israel is seeking to divide the Maghreb just as it succeeded in "shattering the ranks" in the Arab East. Bendjedid also drew attention to "shortcomings" in Algeria's internal situation, including the rapid growth in state subsidies for inefficient companies and agriculture.

Sudan

The SPLA's clandestine radio broadcast an announcement by the SPLA High Command reminding SPLA commanders that "the initial order to shoot down any and all unauthorized aircraft still stands." Any unauthorized convoys by land, river, or rail to Wau, Malakal, or Juba are to be ambushed and their contents distributed to the population, the statement added, warning the Sudanese Government and international relief organizations that they will be responsible for any losses incurred as a result of ignoring this order.

African Conference in Libya

The conference of African revolutionary and progressive forces adopted eight "practical resolutions" including the formation of an "African revolutionary force" to resist "aggression" against popular revolutions and liberation movements, according to a communique broadcast by Tripoli radio. The conference also resolved to establish a "revolutionary court," a radio station, a newspaper, and a permanent secretariat.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes hit a second "large maritime target" off the Iranian coast 29 September, according to an Iraqi spokesman cited by INA.

Iran

Minister in Saudi Arabia — The oil minister held talks with his Saudi counterpart and with King Fahd, Tehran radio reported, noting that the discussions were held in a "friendly atmosphere" and covered issues of common concern, mutual relations, and future cooperation. Regarding the oil market, they discussed "methods of cooperation between the two countries for raising oil prices."

Protest to DRA — The Foreign Ministry protested to the DRA over the latter's "fabricated propaganda" about Iranian involvement in its internal affairs, Tehran radio noted.

DRA

A car bomb exploded near the Soviet trade center in Kabul 28 September, killing three Afghan civilians and causing serious material damage, Kabul radio announced.

In another development, BAKHTAR reported that 150 members of the Jamiat-e Eslami surrendered to government forces in Parwan Province.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 189 *30 September 1986*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Najibullah Speaks on Elections, Economy ..... C 1
USSR's Murakhovskiy Departs Following Visit ..... C 1
Dost Returns From UN Session 29 Sep ..... C 1
Car Bomb Explodes Near Soviet Office in Kabul ..... C 1
Tehran: Najibullah, Keshtmand Unhurt ..... C 1
Security Forces Seize Weapons, Explosives Near Kabul ..... C 1
150 'Counterrevolutionaries' Surrender in Parwan ..... C 2

BANGLADESH

Pakistan's Noorani Arrives, Meets Ershad ..... D 1
AFP: Bomb Explodes at Opposition Rally ..... D 1
AFP Reports Further ..... D 1
PTI Cited on Shanti Bahini Kill 28 in Chittagong *[AFP]* ..... D 1

INDIA

Foreign Minister Returns From UN; Views Meetings ..... E 1
Delhi Reports Shultz-Shankar Meeting ..... E 1
Vice Prenident on Aid to Frontline African States ..... E 1
Spokesman Views Soviet Delegation's Visit 20-27 Sep ..... E 1

PAKISTAN

Yaqub Khan on Afghanistan, Relations With India ..... F 1
MRD Committee Views Worsening Domestic Situation *[THE MUSLIM 18 Sep]* ..... F 1
Alertness Urged in Defense of Possible Indian Attack *[HAIDER 20 Sep]* ..... F 2
Paper Supports Latest Junejo Stand on Kashmir *[THE MUSLIM 22 Sep]* ..... F 2
Commentary Defends Nuclear Agreement With PRC ..... F 2

IRAN

Musavi Says War To Continue Until 'Ultimate Victory' ..... I 1
Warns Supporters of Saddam ..... I 1
Comments on War Efforts, Revenue 'Slump' ..... I 1
Kabul Version of Mojahedin, Forces in Herat Denied ..... I 1
Maneuvers Mark 1981 Break of Iraqi Siege of Abadan ..... I 1
KEYHAN Says People Ready 'To Create Biggest Epic' *[22 Sep]* ..... I 2
Iraqi POW's on Saddam's 'Sinister' Motives in War ..... I 3
POW's Ask To Go to Battlefronts ..... I 3
Units Continue To Depart for War Fronts ..... I 4
Combat Specialists Leave ..... I 4
'Specialized' Forces Depart ..... I 4
Khuzestan Combat Forces Leave ..... I 4
Paper Comments on Government's 'New Economic Plan *[KEYHAN 17 Sep]* ..... I 4
Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq ..... I 5
Communique No 2,609 ..... I 5
Positions in Iraq Shelled ..... I 6
100 Iraqis Killed; 2 Bases Captured ..... I 6

Najibullah Speaks on Elections, Economy

LD292219 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 29 Sep 86

[Excerpt] Under the title: Party Plans Are the People's Plans, a democratic conference was held in Kabul today. Comrade Najibullah, PDPA Central Committee general secretary participated in the conference and spoke on the politico-military situation in the country. He shed light on the great task that the party and state are pursuing as regards national reconciliation and the expansion and consolidation of state power and administration.

In a part of his speech, Comrade Najibullah said: The election work of local organs of state power and administration has been successfully concluded in all the provinces and districts. Some 85 percent of the voters have participated in these elections.

Further on in his speech, Comrade Najibullah emphasized the importance of the draft constitution, which will be published in the country's press in the near future to elicit opinions on it, as well as the fundamental draft and approval of the 1986-1991 socioeconomic development plan and the speeding up of the national economy's growth.

Following the victory of the April Revolution, this plan is a great social economic development program which has been drawn up in consideration of the production power and the country's resources, the realization of which is based upon the fraternal assistance of the socialist countries, and the Svoiet Union above all.

It has been envisaged that our national economy will grow 26 percent during the 5 years; the volume of industrial products by 38 percent; and the volume of agricultural material from 14 to 16 percent.

Comrade Najibullah stated that such results can only be achieved when all tasks are implemented in accordance with the 19th PDPA Central Committee plenum's resolutions with a spirit of responsibility and discipline. [passage omitted]

USSR's Murakhovskiy Departs Following Visit

LD292218 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 29 Sep 86

[Excerpt] Comrade Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Agro-Industrial Committee, who, heading a Soviet delegation, came to Kabul to take part in the sixth session of the Permanent Commission of Economic Cooperation between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, left for his country this afternoon.

Present at Kabul International Airport were: Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; Comrade Major General Gholam Faruq Yaqubi, candidate Politburo member and the DRA minister of state security; Comrade Niaz Mohammad Mohmand, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Vice Chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers and head of the DRA State Planning Committee Comrade Mohammad Aziz; Major General Sayd Mohammad Golabzoy, minister of international affairs; some other members of the Council of Ministers and Soviet ambassador in Kabul Petrovich Mozhayev and some members of the embassy. [passage omitted]

Dost Returns From UN Session 29 Sep

LD300705 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 30 Sep 86

[Text] Kabul, September 29, BAKHTAR: Shah Mohammed Dost, foreign minister of the DRA, after participating in the 41st session of the General Assembly of the United Nations and special sessions of that body in relations to the independence of Namibia, returned home today.

Car Bomb Explodes Near Soviet Office in Kabul

LD291709 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 29 Sep 86

[Text] A large amount of explosive substances which the counter-revolutionaries had placed inside an automobile near Alauddin school close to the USSR trade center in Kabul, exploded yesterday. The explosion took place at a time when school children were leaving the school. Two school children, Mohammad Amin and Bahramoddin, and shopkeeper Sufi Mohammad, were killed and one Sarandoy private was injured as a result of the explosion. In addition, there was serious material damage.

Dear citizens, this crime has been carried out by elements linked to imperialist subversive circles who hate our people. If you have any information about the perpetrators of the crime, please contact telephones [Kabul] 21 100 and 21 402. In this way you would be accomplishing your patriotic duty in assisting the security organs in the struggle against criminals.

Tehran: Najibullah, Keshtmand Unhurt

LD300810 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 30 Sep 86

[Text] While attending a reception at the Soviet Embassy in Kabul, the head and prime minister of the Afghan regime escaped unhurt from an explosion placed by Muslim Afghan revolutionaries.

According to Kabul radio, the explosion, which took place near the Soviet Embassy in Kabul, left three dead and one injured.

According to this report, at the time of the explosion, the head of the Afghan regime and his prime minister were attending a dinner reception at the Soviet Embassy.

Security Forces Seize Weapons, Explosives Near Kabul

LD291712 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 29 Sep 86

[Text] Our country's vigilant security forces foiled an attempt by the savage counterrevolutionaries to bring a quantity of weapons

and explosives into Kabul in order to create fear, disrupt security, and kill our innocent citizens.

A BIA correspondent reports that as a result of this timely action which took place in Kabul's environs, a rocket-launcher together with five rockets, four different types of Chinese and English-made weapons together with large quantities of ammunition and explosives with detonators were seized by our security forces.

150 'Counterrevolutionaries' Surrender in Parwan

LD300703 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 30 Sep 86

[Text] Kabul, September 29, BAKHTAR: A group of 150 armed Afghan counter-revolution attached to the Jamiat-e-Eslami criminal band, along with their ringleader, surrendered themselves to the Armed Forces of the DRA in Parwan Province, north of the country.

Mohammh [word indistinct] the ringleader said in an interview that the very active policy of national reconciliation of the PDPA and the state of the DRA have convinced him and his men to lay down weapons and to join the Armed Forces of the DRA for securing nation-wide peace in the country.

He confessed that his group has been trained by American and Chinese instructors in the military camps of the counter-revolutionaries in Pakistan, and was sent to the territory of the DRA for committing subversive deeds.

Pakistan's Noorani Arrives, Meets Ershad

BK261630 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Sep 86

[Text] Pakistan's minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, arrived in Dhaka today on a 3-day visit to Bangladesh. A former Pakistan ambassador to Bangladesh and now an additional foreign secretary, Mr Tanvir Ahmed Khan, is accompanying him. Mr Noorani will go to Urirchar tomorrow to hand over to Bangladesh one mosque and 40 houses built by Pakistan for the cyclone victims.

The visiting Pakistan state minister called on President Ershad at Banga Bhavan in Dhaka this evening. He handed over to the president a letter of Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo and conveyed fraternal greetings from the Government and the people of Pakistan.

AFP: Bomb Explodes at Opposition Rally

BK271338 Hong Kong AFP in English 1336 GMT 27 Sep 86

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 27 (AFP) — A bomb exploded near the speakers' platform during an opposition rally in Dhaka Saturday, injuring at least three people, eyewitnesses said.

It was not immediately clear if opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed, who was giving a speech when the blast occurred, or other leaders on the platform had been hurt.

The bomb exploded a few yards (metres) from the raised wooden platform while Sheikh Hasina, leader of an eight-party opposition alliance headed by the Awami League, was calling on people to boycott next month's presidential election.

She was speaking at a public meeting in a Dhaka square.

One eyewitness said he saw volunteers carrying an injured man through the panicking crowd after the explosion.

AFP Reports Further

BK271514 Hong Kong AFP in English 1509 GMT 27 Sep 86

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 27 (AFP) — Fourteen people were injured after a bomb exploded near the speakers' platform during an opposition rally in Dhaka Saturday, eyewitnesses and doctors said.

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed, who was giving a speech when the blast occurred, and other leaders on the platform escaped uninjured, party officials said.

The bomb was apparently thrown from a balcony overlooking the public square where the rally was being held, party sources said. [passage omitted]

Three people were injured in the blast, and 11 were hurt when opposition supporters assaulted a number of people in the crowd and seized two people they believed were responsible for the explosion, eyewitnesses said.

Ten people were admitted to hospital, three of them suffering splinter wounds, a doctor in the emergency ward at Dhaka's medical college hospital said.

Four others were released after treatment.

Police refused to comment immediately on the explosion.

Party volunteers seized two people they believed to be responsible for the blast and attacked and injured 11 people in the crowd, eyewitnesses said.

Sheikh Hasina was criticising military ruler President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and accusing him of forcing a farcical presidential election against the will of the people at the moment of the explosion, eyewitnesses said.

She continued her speech after the blast, accusing the government of trying to gag the opposition and scare it into silence.

Her alliance would hold protest rallies and meetings from Sunday to protest the explosion, she added.

A similar explosion in the same square during a rally for former President Khandakar Moshtaque Ahmed in May 1981 left one person dead and a dozen injured.

Bangladesh's main opposition parties have said that they will boycott the presidential election, due to be held October 15, on the grounds that free and fair polls are not possible under martial law.

Lieutenant General Ershad, who recently joined the ruling Jatiya Party and was immediately appointed party chairman, is standing as a Jatiya candidate.

PTI Cited on Shanti Bahini Kill 28 in Chittagong

BK271542 Hong Kong AFP in English 1532 GMT 27 Sep 86

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 27 (AFP) — Tribal guerrillas gunned down 28 people and injured 40 others in a pre-dawn attack this week in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh, the *Press Trust of India* (PTI) said Saturday.

Members of the banned Shanti Bahini group raided a crowded shopping centre in Ajodhya District Monday and opened fire indiscriminately, PTI said, quoting "border intelligence sources" in India's eastern Tripura State.

About 20 guerrillas fired at non-tribal settlers, while others held up Bangladeshi troops and para-military forces trying to reach the trouble spot from Mati Ranga District, PTI said. As they fled, the guerrillas left notices declaring "quit Chittagong Hill Tracts," a reference to the resettlement of plains people in the area by the Bangladeshi Government, PTI said.

The Shanti Bahini guerrillas, active since the early 1970's, spearhead an autonomy campaign in a 13,000-square-kilometre (5,200-square-mile) area of the hill tracts bordering the Indian states of Tripura and Mizoram and the western tip of Burma.

Foreign Minister Returns From UN; Views Meetings

BK291636 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 29 Sep 86

[Exderpt] The external affairs minister, Mr Shiv Shankar, said that the main thrust of India's efforts at the current UN General Assembly session is to canvas support for the South African people, help the Frontline States in facing Pretoria's reprisals and persuade nuclear-weapon-powers to stop all tests. Mr Shiv Shankar who returned to New Delhi today after attending the session in New York was speaking in an interview with All India Radio. He said he met the foreign ministers of 40 to 50 countries and discussed with them the steps to help the Frontline States. Mr Shiv Shankar referred to the recent 6-nation disarmament conference at Ixtapa, Mexico, and said India has now taken the initiative at the UN General Assembly to urge the nonsuper-power countries making nuclear weapons to stop all nuclear testing.

Mr Shiv Shankar said he impressed upon the Chinese foreign minister the need to resolve all differences at the political level and not through occupation of territory as they did in Sumdorong Chu. With the Soviet foreign minister, Mr Shiv Shankar discussed the preliminary steps to be taken in connection with Mr Gorbachev's visit to India. The visit is scheduled to take place in November. [passage omitted]

Delhi Reports Shultz-Shankar Meeting

BK260906 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 26 Sep 86

[Text] India and the United States have agreed not to allow extraneous issues to come in the way of bilateral relations. The external affairs minister, Mr Shiv Shankar, and the U.S. secretary of state, Mr Shultz, also agreed to further consolidate bilateral ties during their 1/2 hour meeting at the United Nations yesterday. The two leaders affirmed that mutual differ ences on global issues should not be taken as animosity. Mr Shiv Shankar underlined the need for greater communication between two countries at the political and official levels. He briefed Mr Shultz on the outcome of the recent nonaligned summit at Harare.

Mr Shultz appreciated India's role both at the summit and in the movement. He observed that as the two largest democracies — India and the U.S. — are bound to have their own independent assessment on international issues, but this should not be allowed to come in the way of strengthening mutual ties.

Vice President on Aid to Frontline African States

BK290404 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 29 Sep 86

[Text] India will strive to ensure that the Frontline African States are not affected by the retaliatory measures of the racist Pretoria regime following the economic sanctions against it. Talking to the AIR [All India Radio] correspondent in New Delhi before his departure for Botswana, the vice president, Mr Venkataraman, said adequate measures will be taken in this regard by the Nonaligned Movement and by India as chairman of the African front. He expressed the hope that his visit will help in identifying problems contronting the Frontline States. The vice president who has gone on a 4-day visit to Botswana will participate in the independence day celebrations of that country to be held in the capital Gaborone. He is accompanied by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Eduardo Faleiro, and a high-level delegation.

Spokesman Views Soviet Delegation's Visit 20-27 Sep

BK261441 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1429 GMT 26 Sep 86

[Text] The official spokesman stated the following on Sept 26, 1986:

"The Soviet delegation led by V.F. Mordvinov, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, held talks on Indo-Soviet economic relations with the Indian delegation led by the Foreign Secretary A.P. Venkateswaran. Mordvinov is presently in India on a seven day visit from September 20 to September 27. During his stay he called on Dr Manmohan Singh, deputy chairman of Planning Commission, Vasant Sathe, minister of energy, K. C. Pant, minister of steel and mines, Foreign Secretary A. P. Venkateswaran, B. Krishnamurthy, chairman of Steel Authority of India, M. M. Kohli, secretary, Department of Power, A.N. Varma, secretary, Department of Coal, and G. V. Ramachandran. secretary, Petroleum.

Mordvinov held extensive discussions on Indo-Soviet relations, on subjects which came up during prime minister's visit to Moscow, and also on new projects of Indo-Soviet cooperation in order to prepare the ground for the visit of General Secretary Gorbachev to India later this year. The discussions were held in cordial and friendly atmosphere marked by mutual understanding."

Yaqub Khan on Afghanistan, Relations With India

BK300524 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 30 Sep 86

[Text] At the United Nations, Pakistan said that such a time frame for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan should be formulated which will make the Soviet forces withdraw within a short period. Addressing the General Assembly, the Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that now the focus of political settlement is agreement on a short time frame for the withdrawl of Soviet forces. He welcomed the Soviet Union's recent announcement on the withdrawal of six regiments as a first step. But, he said, what is needed is not only a token withdrawal but also the early withdrawal of all Soviet forces from Afghanistan.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that the UN Charter has been flagrantly violated by the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan. This has endangered Pakistan's security as well.

Referring to the UN-sponsored indirect talks in Geneva, he said that these talks had reached an extremely important stage. He assured the UN secretary general and his personal representative of Pakistan's total support and paid tribute to them for their efforts for a political settlement. He expressed the hope that the UN General Assembly will once again make a decision calling for the ending of the foreign military intervention in Afghanistan soon, for the restoration of its freedom, sovereignity, and non-aligned status, and for the return of the Afghan refugees.

On relations with India, he said that Pakistan is continuing its efforts to establish good neighborly relations and Pakistan believes that its dispute with India over the Kashmir issue will be settled peacefully according to the UN resolutions and the Simla agreement.

In his detailed address on various topics, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan also referred to the situation in the Middle East, the Iran-Iraq war, Kampuchea, South Africa, Zambia, disarmament, nonproliferation of nuclear arms, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SARC], and other economic issues.

The foreign minister reiterated Pakistan's determination to take full efforts to prevent terrorism and drug trafficking.

MRD Committee Views Worsening Domestic Situation

BK261135 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
18 Sep 86 p 8

[Text] Karachi, Sept 17 — The MRD Central Action Committee meeting which concluded here late in the night on Sept 14/15 has strongly protested against the use of 'Delta Force' and other foreign agencies to investigate into the recent hijacking incident in Karachi.

One of the resolutions adopted by the meeting and released today by the Secretary-General, Malik Qasim, at a press briefing this afternoon at 70 Clifton, said such actions amount to permitting foreign interference in the country's domestic affairs. It expressed the apprehension that such measures on the part of the government may lead to hatching a conspiracy against a brotherly Muslim country.

The resolution expressed its grave concern over the deteriorating law and order situation and accused the regime of deliberately creating lawlessness in an effort to prolong its rule. It referred to the increasing number of daylight robberies, the gruesome murders of diplomats, the hijacking incident, and the spreading dacoits' rule in the interior of Sind and said a situation was being created to justify the imposition of another Martial Law.

The briefing session at which Malik Qasim also announced the decisions of the Central Action Committee meeting, was also attended by Ms Benazir Bhutto, Mushtaq Mirza of the PDP [Pakistan Democratic Party], Iqbal Haider, and Pervez Saleh of the QMA [Qaumi Mahaz-I-Azadi].

Malik Qasim said the meeting has directed the MRD leadership in the four provinces to fix dates for public meetings to be addressed by leaders of all the component parties. The first meeting is to be held in NWFP by Oct 10 — the exact date and venue is to be announced by the NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] MRD. The next meeting of the Central Action Committee will be held a day after the public meeting.

He also announced the measures to mobilise and activate the MRD, which included organisation and election of provincial as well as district level bodies of the alliance within one month.

He said it has been decided that each provincial body will observe "weeks" on burning problems faced by the people such as unemployment, closure of educational institutions, lawlessness, and demands of labour and the students.

Malik Qasim regretted publication of reports in a section of the press, giving misleading versions of discussion at the MRD meeting. He said the MRD has not placed any responsibility of what has happened following the Independence Day meetings on any party. "The decision was unanimous and the achievement or discredit is to be shared by all", he said.

He disclosed that a number of MRD leaders and workers — in hundreds — are still behind the bars including PPP [Pakistan People's Party] Secretary Information, a former Speaker Shaikh Rafiq and Rana Shaukat Mahmood.

In another resolution the MRD meeting strongly condemned the atrocities committed by the law enforcing agencies in Sind and other parts of the country and demanded release of arrested leaders and workers and withdrawal of cases against them.

Other resolutions supported demands of the labour and student communities and urged lifting of ban on students bodies and unions.

The meeting demanded reinstatement of all retrenched workers including senior journalist of NPT papers of Lahore. It also demanded restoration of publication of all banned newspapers including *Musawaat*, *Sadaqat*, *Al Fatah*, and *Tahrik*.

Alertness Urged in Defense of Possible Indian Attack

BK290845 Rawalpindi HAIDAR in Urdu 20 Sep 86 p 3

[Editorial: "Revelations About Conspiracy To Attack Pakistan"]

[Text] *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, published in Calcutta, has revealed in an article that the Soviet Union is constantly pressuring India to attack Pakistan. It says the Soviet Union is active in stimulating India's feelings that, if Pakistan makes an atomic bomb, India's military supremacy in this region will be terminated, so it should do something before the event. The paper adds that the feeling in the Indian External Affairs Ministry is becoming stronger and stronger that the Soviet Union and India together should definitely do something to weaken Pakistan, since it has become stronger than it needs to be with the manufacture of an atomic bomb and the acquisition of a huge quantity of arms from the United States.

The article goes on to claim that Pakistan has the capacity to manufacture an atomic bomb and can explode one at a place of its choosing on short notice. According to the paper, the Soviet Union has also suggested to India that September to December will be a suitable time to attack Pakistan.

The revelations of *Ananda Bazar Patrika* about an attack on Pakistan cannot be ignored. There is no doubt that the Soviet Union cannot risk a direct encounter with Pakistan in view of the prevailing situation in Afghanistan. It also knows that, in case of its direct involvement, the United States will also plunge into the war, engulfing the whole region in flames and blood. However, the Soviet Union may push India to the forefront to fulfill its resolution. Earlier, when Indira Gandhi was prime minister, all the Sikhs in India were enraged by the government's military action at the Golden Temple. She schemed to attack Pakistan in the month of September. Several international papers revealed this Indian plan, and some of them carried proof as well. Due to the assassination of Mrs Indira Gandhi, however, the resolutions of the Government of India to attack Pakistan failed miserably. Now that this kind of talk is cropping up again, it cannot be dismissed as mistaken in the face of overall accounts of Indian tendencies.

Indian occupation of Pakistani territory on the Siachen Glacier, allegations of Pakistan's training Sikhs, Indian propaganda against Pakistan on manufacturing nuclear arms, activities of Indians in some areas of Sind, and the Indian border violations in Azad Kashmir all point to the fact that India's intentions are not good. Under these circumstances, the duty of the Government of Pakistan is to review the situation seriously, make a sound analysis of the circumstances, and make every effort to keep the country united. In this region, Pakistan wants peace and stability and does not want the region engulfed in the flames of war. The Governments of Pakistan and India have to wage a war against poverty and resolve the problems of the people in their respective countries. But despite all its good intentions, if the Government of Pakistan has to defend itself on the battlefield, there should be no laxness in taking the proper steps at the appropriate time. The people of Pakistan should be well prepared and alert in their defense. The Government of Pakistan should also desist from any indifference in discharging its duties.

Paper Supports Latest Junejo Stand on Kashmir

BK291018 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 22 Sep 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Junejo on Kashmir"]

[Text] Prime Minister Junejo's latest pronouncement on the Kashmir dispute while on a tour of Azad Kashmir is forthright and consistent with UN resolutions on the subject. Under a mask of piety and peace India has been able to disenfranchise Kashmiri Muslims and has clung on to Kashmir against the considered weight of International law and opinion. Long speeches, tall talk, and poorly-thought-out campaigns to wrest Kashmir from illegal Indian dominion has disserved the majority of Kashmiris and their supporters in Pakistan. India has now started hosting international sporting events at Srinagar to parade before the world the reality of their hold on Kashmir and to rub in on Pakistan the seeming futility of renewing their case on Kashmir. But so tenuous is the Indian hold that during a recent cricket one-dayer between Australia and India at Srinagar, Kashmiri spectators were required to be registered before they could enter the cricket ground.

The issue of self-determination is not moribund; therefore, it is incumbent for Kashmiris on both sides of the border to continue contesting Indian control of their homeland. Junejo's reiteration of Pakistan's stance on the question of Kashmiri self-determination should give fresh spirit to the people of Kashmir that their cause is not hopeless. History is against India on the question of Kashmir.

But history is on the side of Pakistan. India was able to dominate Kashmir, partly through an act of imperial brigandage, partly through Pakistani mishandling, and partly through Kashmiri quislings. To date, domestic instability in Pakistan has not helped the Kashmir cause. If Pakistan can get its act together on a democratic footing then India will begin to have second thoughts on maintaining its colonial control on Kashmir.

Commentary Defends Nuclear Agreement With PRC

BK270714 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1715 GMT 26 Sep 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] The prime minister of Pakistan, in a speech made in Azad Kashmir recently, reiterated that the agreement recently signed between Pakistan and China for cooperation in the nuclear field was exclusively designed for peaceful purposes. He said no other country, especially those in the region, should feel any apprehension in this regard.

The agreement has clearly mentioned that the material supplied by China to Pakistan for the purposes of research and development in nuclear technology would be governed by the safeguards laid down by the International Atomic Agency [name as heard]. An inspection of this shows incontrovertibly that no covert objectives are contemplated. It has been specifically mentioned that the cooperating nations will participate in the realm of development in the region of agriculture, medicine, and power, the areas

in which Pakistan has already been conducting research and has already made some positive advances. But to make further progress in this sort of crucial research, it needed some valuable assistance.

Pakistan believes that nuclear technology for military purposes used by the Third World countries is a luxury, which they can ill afford. It has held that to build a nuclear arsenal would not only take much time to be of any use but is likely to promote an armaments race, which could not serve any useful purpose. It has always aligned itself with those countries who want the Indian Ocean region to be nuclear-free zone. The immense capital invested for the purpose can more suitably be utilized for raising the standard of living of the people. This is exactly what Pakistan is aiming at.

It was recently stated that the energy situation in Pakistan is very precarious. With the delays in the setting up of the power houses at the Port Qasim plant and in the completion of the hub [dam] project, there is certainty that Pakistan would be faced with considerable [power] load shedding in the year 1988 to 1992. And with the possible increase in demand, the need for heavier load shedding is likely to continue.

Nuclear power production is necesary to meet our demands. The agreement between Pakistan and China to cooperate is a link in the chain. It is most surprising that a country in the region continues to cry loud against possibilities which do not exist, while it itself has openly developed its military nuclear potential. The charge that Pakistan is making nuclear weapons has been refused [as heard] time and again from responsible quarters. Instead of accepting facts on their face value, they are being represented as a threat, even while the same party is building an arsenal of additional weapons — larger than any country in the whole of Asia. Mutual trust is the only ground on which positive pattern of peace can be built. Such a trust can only emerge out of admitting the reality as spelt out by either side. It is no service to peace to work for the breakdown of mutual respect by constantly hammering on a charge, which has been spelt out as having no legs to stand upon.

China has once again proved itself a real friend to Pakistan by agreeing to help it improve its potential in nuclear research and development for peaceful purposes. Even so for supressing any doubt, it has insisted on a type of safeguards which may be necessary and to which Pakistan has readily consented.

Musavi Says War To Continue Until 'Ultimate Victory'

LD291237 Tehran IRNA in English 1202 GMT 29 Sep 86

[Text] Shiraz, Fars Prov., Sept 29, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi stressed here Monday that the war will continue until ultimate victory. "Today is the Day of Resistance for the sake of Islam and Koranic values", he said in an interview upon his arrival here.

The prime minister who arrived here to inaugurate the Ph.D. course in chemistry at Shiraz University, was welcomed at the airport by provincial governor general, theologians, civilian and military officials and relatives of martyrs and crippled of the Iraqi imposed war.

The prime minister said that Iran's policies were based on Islamic principles, adding that the Islamic Republic of Iran would not stand any mischief in the world and from any power.

He hoped that the great enthusiasm among the nation to rush to war fronts would lead to smashing and dealing detrimental blows on Saddam's regime.

Speaking on government's policies towards tribes, he said that a high tribal council is to be formed with the membership of a number of ministers, to be chaired by himself. It will be comprised of two political and development sections to be stationed in the ministries of interior and construction jihad.

The prime minister praised devotion of tribesmen and their participation in the war, their knowledge of Islam and their acts of bravery in the fronts.

Warns Supporters of Saddam

LD291933 Tehran IRNA in English 1900 GMT 29 Sep 86

[Text] Shiraz, Fars Prov., Sept 29, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi in a warning to backers of the Iraqi regime said that Iraq cannot attack merchant ships and Sirri Island without the apparant help of the reactionary countries in the region.

Musavi advised these reactionary states to cease supporting Saddam, although, he added, the aid seems to be decreasing daily according to reports reaching Iran.

Addressing a group of directors and executive officials of Fars Province, Musavi said that Ba'thist regime of Iraq is badly demoralized economically, politically, and militarily. He added that Iraq's supporters are already contemplating the replacement of the Ba'thist regime.

The prime minister stressed that after "Val-Fajr 8" (in Al-Faw) and Mehran operations, the volume of news covered by foreign news agencies, regarding the deteriorating condition of Iraq has greatly increased, indicating the severe blows inflicted on the Baghdad government during these operations

On economic issues, the premier described this year as the year of a great test, adding that if Iran successfully carries out its plans, "as of next year we will be able to prove that oil does not influence the fate of the country."

Prime Minister Musavi further said that reducing dependence on oil does not mean Iran will halt construction and development activities, but he added, through great efforts and dedication revenues would be diversified and significant steps taken to expand agriculture and other projects.

Comments on War Efforts, Revenue 'Slump'

LD291758 Tehran IRNA in English 1741 GMT 29 Sep 86

[Text] Shiraz, Fars Prov., Sept 29, IRNA — Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi said here Monday that the slump in the country's foreign exchange revenues has not affected the Iranian war efforts.

The prime minister made the remarks in a speech to a group of local theologians here adding that the government has tried to prevent any damage to the fundamental development plans of the country.

Iranian executive organizations are ready to tolerate any pressure in order not to be forced to request foreign loans, he said.

Musavi said that enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran had exerted economic pressures on Iran in order to push it to compromise.

But, Musavi said, the Iranian people will never abandon their revolutionary principles. He noted that what has caused the government to continue to move in the way of the Islamic Revolution is the people's resistance against difficulties.

On the government's policy on renovation of the war-damaged areas throughout the country Musavi said that his government believes that its constructive power should remain superior to the destructive power of enemy.

Kabul Version of Mojahedin, Forces in Herat Denied

LD291654 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Sep 86

[Text] Our country's Foreign Affairs Ministry, in a letter, formally protested against the Kabul regime's recent fabricated propaganda vis-a-vis the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the latest clashes between the mojahedin and the joint government troops and the occupying forces in Herat. It has been stressed in this protest letter that blaming neighbors for the difficulties facing that country is not acceptable to the Islamic Republic of Iran and that a continuation of such propaganda will certainly lead to undesirable consequences.

Maneuvers Mark 1981 Break of Iraqi Siege of Abadan

LD282318 Tehran IRNA in English 1734 GMT 28 Sep 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Sept 28, IRNA — Mock maneuvers of the historical 'Thamen-ol-A'emmeh' operations, which

successfully shattered the nearly year long Iraqi siege of Abadan were staged at Bandar-e Mahshahr, southeast of here, Saturday.

The heroic operations launched on September 27, 1981 were hailed by the world's leading military experts as the 'biggest ever' military offensive since the World War II.

In a three-pronged attack from Fayazi, Abadan-Mahshahr road and Marad Iran's Muslim combatants laid siege to the Iraqi troops and liberated the city. Later, to play down Iran's victory, Saddam Husayn claimed that the Iraqi Army had withdrawn from the eastern banks of Karoun [spelling as received] River as a tactical move.

The mock maneuvers were seen by Minister of the Interior 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi and Friday prayers leaders of Khuzestan Province.

KEYHAN Says People Ready 'To Create Biggest Epic'

PM291425 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 22 Sep 86 p 2

[Editorial: "On the Threshold of Creating History's Biggest Epic"]

[Excerpts] The Muslim people of Iran are a nation of epics and, as history shows, this people proves its existence and identity to the world through rebellions, movements, and epics. [passage omitted]

Now the Muslim people of Iran are about to create the biggest epic of its existence, and for the past 6 years they have given all they have to create a great and glorious epic and have entered the arena of devotion, sacrifice, holy war, and resistance.

Our people have put behind them 6 years of fire and blood along about 1,300 km of the war front against the Ba'thist enemy. Despite all the destruction, damage, looting, and killing, the people have become younger, happier, and more determined, and they have made their presence felt on the spot. They have never shown defeat, regret, or fatigue on their proud faces. [passage omitted]

The wave of support for the war fronts by the warriors is occurring despite all the economic pressures that have been placed on them, even before the conspiracy of lowered oil prices. The lack of clear planning and other executive shortages weigh heavy on the people. But despite all this, it seems that the revolution enjoys the never ending mobilization of a dedicated manpower. All this, we can definitely say, is because our people's capabilities and natural gifts have been utilized.

The secret of the massive and never ending movement of this country's young and old to the war fronts can be found in their justice-seeking and epic-creating spirit. They are meanwhile tolerating the most severe pressures of inflation because of the economic, social, and political conditions of the people and the government. [passage omitted]

This is also why from the two strategies of "peace, negotiations, and compromise" and "war until victory," the high dignity and the martyr-seeking spirit of the Muslim people of Iran have chosen the latter. By accepting this strategy's high price, it has poured forth its life, wealth, and its loved ones.

At present, one can find different motivations behind this "strategy for peace." Inside the country it is being supported by a limited and small group, and outside the country it has the support of the leaders of countries and their puppets, linked either to the Eastern or Western blocs.

In the Western bloc we see the United States and the regional countries as the more prominent nations with the most interests. It is their fear of the upward swing in Iranian victories that has plunged them into a nightmare and has caused them to make devilish moves to stop the war. This is why they are giving unlimited help to strengthen the Iraqi regime and prevent its collapse.

The Eastern bloc is regarding the situation of revolutionary and Islamic Iran, including the war with Iraq, with an interest-seeking eye and a kind of ideological jealosy. They say in their own diplomatic tone: This useless and meaningless war has to come to an end as quickly as possible, through negotiations. They do not even pay the slightest attention to the interests of our innocent people or their lost rights; they do not even show our needs any respect, and are incapable of understanding our reasons.

Either they are weak in their analyses or else they do not welcome the Islamic Republic of Iran's victories which are creating a third alternative in politics and ideology to the world's traditional division into two blocs. Iran's victory will increase this alternative's influence and prestige on the international scene, and this is not very pleasant for them.

Inside the country, the reality is that there are various groups who bring up the peace slogan for different reasons and motives.

The first group comprises the treasonous counterrevolutionaries who in their search for power have become so stupid and blind that they have bought the indignity of compromise and cooperation with the enemy of the Iranian people. They want to use the facilities of a falling regime in order to safeguard their own forces and they have acted in such a way that they have become the spearhead of meanness vis-a-vis a great popular revolution.

The second group is made up of those who, because of their particular social makeup or else because of a lack of correct indoctrination by ideological officials, are unable to match their lives with wartime conditions and difficulties. They are not able to tolerate or understand the war because they are dominated by worldly concerns.

The third group often cites figures relating to the consequences of the war, the human and economic losses, the political, cultural, and psychological results. They talk about the profiteers, the increase in the services' sector, rising unemployment, inflation, shortages, and other such issues.

Of course, no one is denying the devastating consequences of the war, but there are those who, without presenting any particular

plan or strategy, only say that the continuation of the war is unwise — those whose methods and political stances unmatched to the rest of the revolution fell into opposition with the leadership and the rulers of the revolution from the beginning over the manner of conducting relations with the United States, and over the occupation of the U.S. Embassy. They think the slogan "war, war until victory" or "strategy of war until victory" are devilish slogans which will achieve nothing but destruction. It is interesting to note that they attribute their reasoning to a verse of the Koran, while at the same time they believe that the Koran contains nothing on the establishment of a regime or politics or economics. They believe that in general one cannot and should not take from the Koran details of running a war, a revolution, or the methods of managing a country.

There have been many replies for those who think that the slogan of establishing peace with Saddam is something that has appeared to them out of the blue so that they may put it to paper. But perhaps the best reply was Saddam's latest peace proposal, because the four-point plan suggested in his peace proposal shows his wicked nature. Saddam's open letter and the reply to it by the Islamic Republic of Iran officials was in reality a sort of unofficial and indirect negotiation for those people who believe in the "war war until victory" slogan.

Saddam, who is in the weakest political, military, and economic position, has turned Iraq into a base for those disgraced counter-revolutionaries who have been kicked out of Europe, and he continues his devilish and everlasting enmity against the Islamic Republic of Iran. He leaves the officials and our people no choice other than to force the world to punish the aggressor or else to punish the war criminal at an Islamic tribunal.

To understand this issue is not so hard, as it has been stated many times. It is the key to understanding many secrets, such as why the leadership insists on continuing the war, and why the people welcome the chance of going to the fronts. [passage omitted]

Iraqi POW's on Saddam's 'Sinister' Motives in War

NC290932 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Sep 86

[Telephone report by unidentified Radio Tehran correspondent in Ahvaz on meeting between nine captured commanders and officers of Iraqi units and "combatants of Islam" — recorded]

[Text] Nine officers and commanders of units of Iraq's Armed Forces who were captured by the brave combatants of Islam in the course of the Muslim Iranian people's 6-year holy defensive war expressed the wish to meet with combatants of Islam and answer their questions on Iraq's imposed war on Iran. This request having been acceded to by officials, these officers met with a number of combatants of Islam. The officers were Staff Colonel (Nazir Sa'ib Kazim), commander of the 3d Battery of the 10th Artillery Division; Staff Colonel ('Abd al-Kazim Husayn 'Abbud), commander of the 111th Brigade at Al-Faw port; Lieutenant Colonel (Sa'id 'Abd al-Hamid Hamid), commander of the 705th Battalion; Staff Lieutenant Colonel ('Adnan Razi Sami), commander of the 9th Brigade of the 333d Special Forces Battalion; Lieutenant Colonel (Dawud Salman Hisham), commander of the 3d Brigade of the 96th Cavalry Battalion; Flight Major (Muhammad Mahmud Shakir), acting commander of the 69th [word indistinct] of the Iraqi Air Force; 1st Lieutenant (Muhammad 'Aziz), commander of Iraq's Al-'Ummayah mobilization forces; 2d Lieutenant (Majid Jalil 'Abbas), commander of the surface-to-sea missile base in Al-'Ummayah region; and 2d Lieutenant ('Abbas Fadhil Hasan).

All the officers expressed their satisfaction (?at this meeting) and announced their readiness to answer questions from the combatants of Islam.

In answer to one such question, Staff Col (Nazir Sa'ib Kazim) explained Saddam's motive in sparking off the war and said: The leaders of Iraq's Ba'thist Party, acting on the orders of colonialists and world arrogance, started this war to defeat the Islamic Revolution of Iran. Saddam's propaganda portrayed it as a war to defend Iraq. However, Iraq's Armed Forces now fully understand that the truth is that Saddam fomented the war, and it can be said that at present more than 90 percent of Iraq's Armed Forces oppose Saddam. Col (Nazar) continued: Sad-dam has no confidence in the Iraqi soldiers' ability to defend their bunkers and he entirely depends, as he has confessed, on long-range weapons. This shows that after 6 years of war the Iraqi soldier feels incapable. Asked by another combatant of Islam about the morale of the Iraqi Armed Forces, Staff Col ('Abd al-Kazim), commander of the Iraqi Army in the Al-Faw region, said: After the revelation of Saddam's aggressive and sinister objectives in sparking off the war, the morale of the Iraqi soldiers is very low. They are like corpses in their tomb-like bunkers, and all Saddam's (?cries) are aimed at boosting their morale.

In his remarks, Flight Col (Muhammad Mahmud Shakir) confirmed that he had participated in the bombing of Iran's residential and civilian areas which the Iraqi Air Force has carried out since the beginning of the war. He added that on approaching their target, the Iraqi pilots know that they have no hopes of returning, because of the strong defense by the Iranian forces. This Iraqi pilot said he was glad to have been captured alive by the combatants of Islam, and expressed his gratitude for the kindness shown to him by the soldiers of Islam.

Other Iraqi officers also answered numerous questions from the combatants of Islam. This is the Central News Unit, Ahvaz.

POW's Ask To Go to Battlefronts

LD290119 Tehran IRNA in English 1819 GMT 28 Sep 86

[Text] Tehran, Sept 28, IRNA — In a parade at a prisoners of war camp here Sunday thousands of reoriented Iraqi POW's requested to be allowed to fight the Ba'thist troops of Iraq in the battlefronts. The POW's also signed a scroll with their blood asking to be allowed to go to battle. The scroll was submitted to Chief Justice Ayatollah Abdolkarim Musavi Ardabili.

The chief justice told the Iraqi POW's that the Islamic Republic is committed to obliterating the ruling regime in Baghdad and thereby emancipate the Iraqi masses.

The head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim said in his speech to the Iraqi POW's that the imposition of the war on Iran by the Baghdad regime has served to further the unity between the people of the two nations.

The Iraqi POW's also set ablaze effiges of Saddam Husayn on the occasion of the seventh day of the war week code named 'The Day of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq'.

Units Continue To Depart for War Fronts

Combat Specialists Leave

NC280731 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 28 Sep 86

[Text] On the 6th day of imposed War Week two battalions of trained and redispatched forces from Gilan-e Gharb left for the front under the name Epic Makers of 'Ashura. They departed amid a warm send-off and special ceremonies by local residents, shouting such slogans as "War, war until victory!"

A combat battalion from Saveh has also gone to the fronts of the imposed war. According to other reports, hundreds of combat specialists from Esfahan Province and from the districts of Sabzevar, Shahrud, Sarakhs, Gonabad, Darreh-ye shahr, Borazjan, (Pushesh), (Yegan), and Kazerun have left for the war zones in the last 2 days.

'Specialized' Forces Depart

NC290808 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 29 Sep 86

[Text] Five battalions of experienced and specialized forces from Khorasan Province and from the towns of Fasa and Semnan were warmly seen off by the people as they left to join other combatants of Islam on the warfronts against the Zionist enemy.

Reports from other parts of the country indicate that hundreds of other members of the Kashan and Shiraz Reconstruction Jihad combat engineering forces, as well as a group of technical experts from Mazandaran Province, also left for the fronts to help the combatants of Islam in the war of good against evil.

Khuzestan Combat Forces Leave

LD291309 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Sep 86

[Excerpts] Four battalions from specialized combat forces of Khuzestan Province left for the war fronts. [passage omitted]

The Central News Unit reports that one battalion from the Mobilization Forces of Lamerd District, Fars Province, left for the warfronts. They were warmly sent off by the people of the district.

Paper Comments on Government's 'New Economic Plan

PM291403 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 17 Sep 86 p 18

[Keyhan feature in "Opinion Column" series on government's new economic package. This issue carries the opinion of the *Jomhuri-ye Eslami* newspaper, which has been prepared by *Jomhuri* economic correspondents]

[Text] What was presented early this year by the prime minister as the government's new economic package is really the government's considered and official response to the onslaught by world arrogance with regard to the international conspiracy of lowered petroleum prices. The government's goals in this new program comprise six main areas.

The first of these concerns is to meet all the needs of the imposed war, then to meet the maximum needs of the country's agricultural and natural resources' sector. The next priority is to provide the necessary goods for the people's everyday life, at a fixed price, and finally to convert some of the nation's production lines and to implement programs that would depend on local resources.

It was not long ago this plan was put into effect, so naturally it is too early to judge the government's success in this regard. But something that can be discussed at this particular time is the specific and special analyses that have come to light at the start of this new economic movement.

These viewpoints generally refer to two types of groups: The first group includes those who regard any type of economic and social event in terms of their own financial or political interest. They insist on riding any tide in the storm just to get what they want. For these people, the latest oil crisis is just one such storm.

Following the conspiracy of lowered oil prices, this group went so far as to describe the drop in prices as "a good sign indicating the demise of government control." This group does not necessarily believe in "people's control" either, because as far as they are concerned what matters is only themselves. Even when talking about "the people" what they really mean is themselves.

On this baiss, when there is talk of people being involved in financial matters, they raise their hands and say: Why do you not involve the people in economic matters? When there is talk of nonoil products becoming one of the main ways to deal with consequences of reduced oil revenues, they draw a certain picture of this issue with only themselves at its center. Yet when there is talk of the poor people having the right to get involved, or that those with fewer resources should have a hand in this matter through cooperatives, this group raises shouts of criticism, saying that the idea of cooperatives is a brainchild of Lenin.

The behavior of this group is not something new which has occurred under the present circumstances, but rather it has old roots dating back many years. It is just that the oil war has given it more prominence.

Yet there is another behavior pattern which has come to light at the start of the new economic program, and this belongs to those with limited and self-centered views which can unfortunately be seen in some who have to carry out the new economic scheme.

The policies implemented by the Ministry of Heavy Industry fall into this category.

We said that one of the main aims of the government's economic package is to convert some production lines and to implement plans that would be dependent on local resources.

There is no doubt that the sudden drop in hard currency revenues makes it impossible for those industries that had monopolized a good portion of the country's imports to avoid fundamental changes. What has to be explained, however, is: What are these fundamental changes? What the respected minister of heavy industry has said [in an "Opinion Column" printed in Tehran *Keyhan* of 14 September 1986] is that he feels these fundamental changes are one and the same as the closure of industries that are dependent assembly plants, which make up the bulk of the country's industry. In reality it can be said that the Ministry of Heavy Industry believes that the easiest path for the new economic package would be to close down the factories under its control and to respectfully fire all their workers and employees.

Although it is possible that this action could be seen as logical and acceptable within the limited framework of this ministry, we have to see if it would still seem logical, however, given the government's other important goal, which is to prevent unemployment in society. Could the Ministry of Heavy Industry's method still be acceptable? Would the individualistic approaches of this ministry not counter the government's general strategy in the new economic package?

Now we review the other aspect of the issue. The Ministry of Heavy Industry, following the implementation of the said policies, has during the past several months undertaken a wide range of actions encouraging workers to resign voluntarily — with full benefits.

This issue went so far that in some units under the jurisdiction of this ministry there were some forced resignations. Unofficial figures indicate that so far some 7,000 workers in factories under the control of this ministry have voluntarily resigned. The severance pay for each of the resigning personnel ranges from 1.5 million rials to 3 million rials per person. In some cases, this sum is higher. According to another unofficial figure the total sum paid in severance pay to some 4,000 workers at the Iran Khodrow plant is something to the tune of 10.2 billion rials. Was it not possible to use this enormous budget — both in terms of rials and in terms of hard currency — to create constructive work for these 4,000 people that would depend on local resources?

Has a survey been made to see what these redundant people invest their money in, once they get their severance pay? Are these small investors capable of investing in independent industries that would rely only on local resources? Or else did these people pour into the services' sector of society to engage in useless labor?

These are the questions, and if the Ministry of Heavy Industry has no good reply to them, then it has to accept the fact that it has made a mistake at the beginning of this new economic movement. If that is the case, then it is expected that the ministry should not continue its present path.

The dear people who are serving at the Ministry of Heavy Industry should note that even if the present economic circumstances of society dictate that assembly plants should close down, it is not proper to undertake such actions without prior planning, without coordination with the other economic aspects in the country, without consulting others, or without responsibility to the entire regime which regards employment as one of its most important goals.

These dear brothers could at least take a look at the figures paid in severance pay to workers and think about it. If workers are to get some 1.5 million rials per month as salary, in that case the officials have about 2 and 1/2 years, with the same budget, to do something about the "labor culture" and the constructive placement of the work force in other areas. They can be sure that, with the huge spiritual and moral support of the people in this regard, they will be successful. These people have such a high understanding of the conspiracies and devilish goals of the world aggressors that they have removed items such as butter from their consumer habits, despite the fact that butter is an essential product. They are also being frugal in their consumption of things like meat and rice and many other goods. How can we believe that these same people would not have the necessary power when it comes to changing work patterns or economic programs?

Now we must believe that plans have to be implemented to give this work force, which wants to be creative, the chance to engage in constructive work and to invest in the country. Roadbuilding, railroad construction, the working of mines, agriculture, handicrafts, and dozens of other projects are things that can create employment and are dependent on local resources. By simplifying the existing mechanisms, these projects are capable of absorbing much more manpower, and the work force released from various segments of industry would make up only a fraction of the total figure.

Of course, it is possible that some experts would find this "crusade-type" labor not economically feasible. But it must be noted that, although the total work force involved in such projects as road and railroad construction would be large, and it may appear not to be feasible, one general look at the new government economic plan would make it clear that the advantages of this proposal would be a cut in inflation, a cut in process, and the limiting of the services' sector. This would benefit not only the government but also the people.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,609
LD291648 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 29 Sep 86

[Text] Tehran, Sept 29, IRNA — A considerable number of Iraqi troops were killed or wounded and 17 enemy bunkers and observation posts, 11 vehicles, two command posts, two artillery pieces, and two munitions dumps destroyed throughout the fronts by Iranian artillery fire on Sunday, said a military communique here Monday.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2,609 said that Iranian forces shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the southern fronts Sunday

killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying six bunkers and six vehicles.

Fire exchanges continued throughout the fronts Sunday raging heavier in Hoseyniyeh and Shalamcheh theaters in southern fronts.

In the western fronts, a large number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded Sunday when 11 enemy bunkers and lookout posts, two munitions dumps, two artillery pieces, and five vehicles were destroyed. Reconnaissance flights of enemy helicopters were also checked.

Iranian forces opened heavy fire on Iraqi positions in Basra operational theater Sunday, halting enemy activities and smashing some Iraqi equipment.

In the northwestern fronts, Iran's Muslim forces shelled Iraqi positions and supply convoys on Sunday destroying two command posts and silencing the latter's fire, the communique said.

Positions in Iraq Shelled

LD291755 Tehran IRNA in English 1742 GMT 29 Sep 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov, Sept 29, IRNA — Iraqi artillery fire damaged several houses and shops in Abadan on Sunday and Monday.

Meanwhile, Iranian Muslim combatants disrupted Iraqi engineering and relocation activities on military roads east of Abul-Khasib, east of Basra.

Iranian heavy artillery also shelled enemy positions in Sibeh region in southern Iraq Sunday and Monday, inflicting considerable casualties and losses.

100 Iraqis Killed; 2 Bases Captured

LD301145 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Sep 86

[Text] A Central News Unit correspondent reports on last night's operation in the Changuleh sector by Basij and tribal combatants from Ilam:

[Begin recording] At 0130 today, self-sacrificing Basij forces together with combat tribesmen from Ilam, following the command of his excellency the imam to deprive the Zionist enemy of peace, advanced 3 km along enemy defensive lines, crossed minefields and barbed wire, and rushed the positions of the feeble enemy in a lightning attack, rendering the enemy unable to react.

They destroyed a company of the 2d Battalion of the 503d Brigade of Iraq's II Corps, killing about 100 enemy troops. They captured two bases of the defeated Iraqi forces, set alight two ammunition dumps and destroyed 10 slit trenches and foxholes of the forces of blasphemy.

After their successful operation, the iron-willed forces of Islam began distributing leaflets in Arabic and photographs of his excellency the imam in the operational theater.

In an interview with a Central News Unit correspondent, the Changuleh operational commander described the success of the operation: To demonstrate their divine strength, the combatants of Islam took control of 3 km of defensive lines of the aggressor enemy and rendered him unable of making any move. At present, the forces of Islam are strengthening their captured positions. [end recording]